

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle characterised by a rod member arranged for transmission of ultrasonic energy to an ocular substrate to effect emulsification thereof, and a hollow tube member having an inner surface defining a lumen arranged for aspiration of emulsified ocular material, the hollow tube member being disposed about the rod member, the rod member having a distal end and a proximal end and the hollow tube member having a distal end and a proximal end.

Claim 2 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1, characterised in that the rod member is concentric with a central longitudinal axis of the lumen,

Claim 3 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the rod member is of uniform cross section throughout its length.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the rod member is tapered throughout its length so that the cross section of the proximal end of the rod member is greater than the cross section of the distal end of the rod member.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the rod member is of circular, oval or polygonal shape in cross section.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the distal end of the rod member ~~has a distal end which is~~ flat, concave, convex or hemispherical.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the rod member has an elongate outer surface which is ridged, grooved or provided with protuberances to generate turbulence in the lumen in use.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the hollow ~~[[the]]~~ tube member is circular or oval in cross section.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1-7~~, characterised in that the distal and proximal ends of the hollow tube member have a circular cross section whilst a mid section ~~thereof~~ of the hollow tube member has an oval cross section.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the hollow tube member has an outer surface, and the outer surface and the inner surface ~~which~~ define an annular wall.

Claim 11 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 10, characterised in that the annular wall is of uniform thickness throughout.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of~~ claim 10, characterised in that the annular wall has a mid section which is thinner than the thickness of the distal and proximal ends ~~thereof~~ of the hollow tube member.

Claim 13 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 12, characterised in that the mid section is thin in a plurality of spaced portions of the annular wall with thicker portions disposed between the thinner portions.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the hollow tube member has distal and proximal portions formed of relatively rigid metallic material whilst a mid section of the hollow tube member is formed of relatively flexible plastics material.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the inner surface of the hollow tube member is provided with ridges, grooves or protuberances to generate turbulence in the lumen in use.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the hollow tube member has a rubberised exterior or a flexible sleeve applied to an exterior surface thereof to reduce wound leakage.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the phacoemulsification needle is arranged for use in bimanual phacoemulsification procedures.

Claim 18 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 characterised in that the rod member is solid throughout.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~any one of the claim~~ claim 1 to 17, characterised in that the rod member is at least partially hollow.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 19, characterised in ~~mat~~ that the rod member has a hollow distal end to facilitation aspiration of ocular material.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to ~~claim~~ claim 1 to 20, characterised in that the proximal end of the rod member is hollow to facilitate aspiration of ocular material.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 21, characterised in that the hollow distal and proximal ~~portions~~ ends of the rod member are broader in cross section than an intermediate portion of the rod member.

Claim 23 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 19, characterised in that the proximal end of the rod member is enlarged so as to be compatible with a phacoemulsification hand piece.

Claim 24 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 21, characterised in that the rod member has an intermediate portion which is hollow so that the rod member is hollow throughout.

Claim 25 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 24, characterised in that the hollow tube member is arranged to divert aspirated ocular material into the proximal end of the rod member.

Claim 26 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 24, characterised in that aspirated ocular material is arranged to be diverted through the rod member and the hollow tube member.

Claim 27 (Original): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 20, characterised in that the proximal end of the rod member is solid.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): A phacoemulsification needle according to claim 20, characterised in ~~mat~~ that the rod member is solid except at the distal end of the rod member.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): An irrigation cannula or irrigating chopper characterised by a hollow tube member extending about the cannula or chopper, ~~which~~ wherein the hollow tube member has a flexible mid portion to reduce wound leakage.